

large gymnasium where exhibition dances were followed by general dancing and singing games.

Anta graciously invited Jerry and us to participate in some of the exhibition dances. We were most honored and enjoyed this experience very much. As with folk dancers everywhere, people were friendly and had lots of fun. Other parts of the festival included visits to various "shops" with food and coffee being offered every time one turned around. Wayne and I are sure that if we lived in the Scandinavian countries we should weigh 300 pounds apiece. Such butter, cream, and good potatoes!

Regretfully, we left Naas, but eagerly we looked forward to our attendance at the all-Scandinavian folk dance festival in Copenhagen. We were very thrilled to have Jerry as our passenger from Naas to Copenhagen.

Thanks to some of the nicest people we have ever met, Wayne, Jerry and I were able to attend much of the festival. Not only did they arrange to procure admission for us (tickets were sold out six months before); but they took us in as house guests, and introduced us to some wonderful folk dance friends. Indeed, our hosts, Edgar and Hjordis Raafeldt, made us feel so "at-home" and showed us such a wonderful time, that we all stayed in Copenhagen longer than we expected.

The first day of the festival was launched with a parade of thousands of folk dancers from the Scandinavian countries marching from the Copenhagen city hall to the famous Tivoli Gardens. It was such an impressive sight to watch them accompanied by bands of folk musicians that we all had lumps in our throats. At Tivoli, we saw an exhibition program. The Finnish dancers captured greatest interest with their "Seal Varsouvienne". It was the traditional dance we all know, but done with feet turned out . . . as if they were seal flippers, and with hands bobbing up and down to exaggerated endings of the musical phrases. That night, we three "foreigners" participated in a party-type dance, learning dances from the several countries. Next day's performance in Copenhagen's open-air museum was rained-out, tho a rain-coated attempt was made by the participants for a short while. That night a festival of the type with which Californians are familiar was held. We all danced, then watched exhibition groups from Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Denmark. Our friends were not able to arrange for more than one to attend the last session, so Jerry went to that with them. As it was, we had been able to attend much more than we had bargained for. Final dance experience in Copenhagen was to have dinner at the home of Karen and Carlo Arendt-Petersen and have some private lessons in Danish folk dancing. It was very difficult to bid our friends "Goodbye".

Then, in August, fortune smiled upon us and all of our Scandinavian friends: Anta, Edgar, Hjordis, Carlo and Karen plus Jerry came to visit us in Juzennecourt. Edgar brought his violin and we had some more Danish dancing. We showed them some Mexican and American dances.

Our folk dance summer was concluded when the whole group of us went to the Alsatian wine festival in Colmar and watched folk dancing from many parts of France and from Switzerland.

We know for sure now what we have always suspected: In folk dancing, there are no nationalities. Rather, the folk dancer is a different species from people who have other hobbies. Regardless of language or location, he is easily recognized as a person who has fun folk dancing; who is friendly; who is enthusiastic about his hobby; and who wants to share his hobby with all who will. And hobby it is, for all the dancers we have met in Europe work at other jobs and dance for fun. Perhaps if all hobbyists in the world could get together and ride their hobbies, national and political boundaries would be forgotten and war between nation would be impossible.



Tho the Lithuanian colony of Omaha, Nebraska, is rather small, they seem to be very much alive and active. During the recent Centennial celebration of Omaha the Lithuanians occupied an important spot in the celebration with dances and several floats. Here a group of Lithuanian girls sing, dance and decorate a Lithuanian cross on the stage of the main center of activities. The Birthday Cake is seen above the dancers.

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## JOY OF THE SEASON

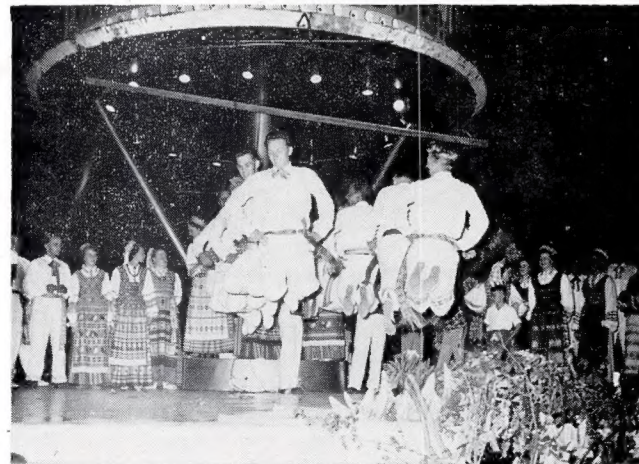
Wishing Our Friends a Year of Happy Dancing

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More Lithuanian "Goats" (Oželiai) jumping all over the stage at Omaha's Centennial celebrations during August 14th, 1954. The Lithuanian presentations were the best acclaimed of the festivities.

SHERWOOD DOINGS, DENVER, COLO.

Alice Nugent

Every year the Sherwood Club, folk dance group of the Steele Community Center of Denver, Colorado, sponsors six open house and guest nights, to which everyone who likes square and folk dancing is cordially invited. There are four in the winter and spring, and two in the fall. Fay Ferree is dance leader. This year, for the first four parties, a theme was carried out.

The party in January was Scots Night, and honored three Scotchmen with birthdays in January—Robert Burns, James Watt, and Sir James Frazier (author of the "Golden Bough", famous work on mythology). The decorations consisted of posters given us by the British Consulate, pictures of Scotland from the Denver Public Library, with travel literature on the bulletin boards, edged with playing cards with the McLean tartan on the back, loaned by Alice Nugent, whose ancestors were McLeans. Refreshments consisted of honey and oatmeal cookies, made by Drusilla Ferree, who also made the hot spiced tea. Sixty dancers had a fine time performing dances of all nationalities.

March was celebrated with Scandinavian Night. The national flags of Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Finland, made by Elizabeth Enholm and Alice Nugent, were put on the walls. Pictures of costumes and scenes from the countries were borrowed from the library and hung. Colorful posters from the travel agencies and legations of the four countries completed the decorations. Mrs. Thea Gamble, of Norwegian ancestry, wore her Hardanger costume. Refreshments were served smorgasbord style, with Swedish rye bread, various spreads, and cocoa par-

May's open house was a Mexican Fiesta. Fifty dancers taken of by almost eighty hungry dancers. joined in the festivities. The Mexican consualte had given us posters, and large paintings by Rivera and Orozco, Mexican artists, were borrowed from the art and music section of the Denver Public Library and hung on the walls, along with smaller pictures of scenic parts of Mexico. Crepe paper streamers and balloons, and candles set in sand, placed in paper bags and then lit, as seen at Santa Fe, made the hall very fiesta-like. Mrs. Elizabeth Steinmetz generously loaned a serape and tin masks to use at the end of the room. Gay lanterns borrowed from Penney's were set along the edge of the balcony and added a colorful note. A pinata full of candy hung from one of the basketball hoops; during the evening Charlie Schiller was blindfolded, and like Casey at the bat, swung wildly soon scattering goodies everywhere for all to gather. Refreshments consisted of tamales, bizcochitos con nueces (little cookies with nuts), and fruit punch.

The fourth and last open house until fall was held in June, and honored the Indians of the Americas. Handsome paintings of Indian dances, along with paintings of katchina dolls and rugs, were borrowed from Chappell House, Indian museum of the Denver Art Museum, and decorated the walls, along with samples of Indian designs and Indian masks, also from the museum. Drusilla and Fay Ferree constructed a most striking totem pole using the paper masks obtained with Wheat Chex purchases. In addition, masks made by Verna Katona were hung and one graced the piano, to give inspiration to Howard Johnson, the piano player. Mr. and Mrs. Sam Gamble, always to be counted on to enter into the spirit of any occasion, came in full Indian regalia. Charlie Schiller, too, was decked out in beaded trousers. Refreshments, as Indian as was appropriate at such a gathering, were served. Over sixty persons had a rollicking evening dancing the dances of many nationalities.

The guest nights have been a lot of work, but they were no end of fun; all present seemed to have a most enjoyable time. The parties resulted in new friends to Steele Center and to folk-dancing, and were well worth the effort in the fun that was had.

The Sherwood Club's first fall open house and guest night was a Bon Voyage Party. Who was going away? No one in particular, but all of us in general—we were taking off for the festivities of the coming year.

Th new officers of the club, Hans Weiske, President, Alice Nugent, Vice President, Helen Pick, Secretary, Vera Hozduk, Treasurer, and Charles Thaver, Personnel, have embarked on a program of adding more interest to the Wednesday night folk dance sessions. Wednesday night, October 20th, was United Nations Night, with many in folk costume. Elizabeth Enholm did a grand job of decking the walls with UN posters. October 27th was Hallowe'en Night, with costumes of all kinds the order of the evening.

Sherwooders planned a Hallowe'en party and dance, held at the Lighted Lantern, folk and square dance camp atop Lookout Mountain, 20 miles from Denver. Members took part in the square dance on October 30th, coming in hard times costumes, and spent the night at the camp, getting breakfast in the morning, and dancing afterward as long as anyone had any strength left.

The Wednesday dancers had a pre-taste of Sherwood's next open house, a Harvest Festival, held on Friday, Nov. 26th. The Mile Hi Dancers come on Wednesday, November 17th, to present dances for the group.

Christmas festivities include an annual dinner held by the club, at Steele Community Center. Plans for December activities are still a bit nebulous, however. In the meantime, the best of everything to each and every one of you, with all good wishes from the Sherwood Club of Denver.

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